



Oregon

Oregon Public Defense Commission

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Responses to Public Safety Sub Question 2/8/24

When was the last time that the Secretary of State audited public defense?

The Secretary of State's Audits Division (SOS AD) has not conducted a program audit for public defense in at least 6 years. Though they do issue a Selected Financial Accounts letter at the end of every financial year. This audit work was not a comprehensive financial audit of the department but was performed as part of the annual audit of the State of Oregon's financial statements. You can find a list of these letters and previous audits here: [State of Oregon: Audits - Search State Audits and Reviews](#)

In meetings with the SOS AD they have indicated they may be conducting a program audit in 2025, however this would be a question for the SOS. SOS AD will be attending OPDC's April Audit Committee and we may have additional information after that meeting on future audits. OPDC has sent SOS copies of all of our audit reports, as required, and we believe that they also have received our risk assessment results.

If there are complaints made to the SOS's Ethics/Fraud hotline, the Audits Division generally will ask that relevant agencies' internal audit shops investigate. In the Fall of 2023, the SOS's Ethics/Fraud hotline contacted our Chief Audit Executive about an anonymous complaint regarding a provider contract in St. Helens. We investigated and found no basis to substantiate the allegation.